

(d) *Fee for transfer.* No fee shall be charged for the transfer of a valid nonimmigrant visa.

Subpart L—Refusals and Revocations

§ 41.121 Refusal of individual visas.

(a) *Grounds for refusal.* Nonimmigrant visa refusals must be based on legal grounds, that is, one or more provisions of INA 212(a) or (e), INA 214(b), INA 221(g), or INA 222(g). Certain classes of nonimmigrant aliens are exempted from specific provisions of INA 212(a) under INA 102, and, upon a basis of reciprocity, under INA 212(d)(8). When a visa application has been properly completed and executed in accordance with the provisions of INA and the implementing regulations, the consular officer must either issue or refuse the visa.

(b) *Refusal procedure.* If a consular officer knows or has reason to believe that an alien is ineligible to receive a visa on grounds of ineligibility which cannot be overcome by the presentation of additional evidence, the officer shall refuse the visa and, if practicable, shall require a nonimmigrant visa application to be executed before the refusal is recorded. In the case of a visa refusal the consular officer shall inform the applicant of the provision of law or regulations upon which the refusal is based. If the alien fails to execute a visa application after being informed by the consular officer of a ground of ineligibility to receive a nonimmigrant visa, the visa shall be considered refused. The officer shall then insert the pertinent data on the visa application, noting the reasons for the refusal, and the application form shall be filed in the consular office. Upon refusing a nonimmigrant visa, the consular officer shall retain the original or a copy of each document upon which the refusal was based as well as each document indicating a possible ground of ineligibility and may return all other supporting documents supplied by the applicant.

(c) *Review of refusal at consular office.* If the ground(s) of ineligibility upon which the visa was refused cannot be overcome by the presentation of additional evidence, the principal consular

officer, or a specifically designated alternate, shall review the case without delay, record the review decision, and sign and date the prescribed form. If the ground(s) of ineligibility may be overcome by the presentation of additional evidence, and the applicant has indicated the intention to submit such evidence, a review of the refusal may be deferred for not more than 120 days. If the principal consular officer or alternate does not concur in the refusal, that officer shall either

(1) Refer the case to the Department for an advisory opinion, or

(2) Assume responsibility for the case by reversing the refusal.

(d) *Review of refusal by Department.* The Department may request a consular officer in a specific case or in specified classes of cases to submit a report if a visa has been refused. The Department will review each report and may furnish an advisory opinion to the consular officer for assistance in considering the case further. If the officer believes that action contrary to an advisory opinion should be taken, the case shall be resubmitted to the Department with an explanation of the proposed action. Rulings of the Department concerning an interpretation of law, as distinguished from an application of the law to the facts, shall be binding upon consular officers.

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 30428, July 2, 1991; 63 FR 671, Jan. 7, 1998]

§ 41.122 Revocation of visas.

(a) *Grounds for revocation by consular officers.* A consular officer is authorized to revoke a nonimmigrant visa issued to an alien if:

(1) The officer finds that the alien was not, or has ceased to be, entitled to the nonimmigrant classification under INA 101(a)(15) specified in the visa or that the alien was at the time the visa was issued, or has since become, ineligible under INA 212(a) to receive a visa;

(2) The visa has been physically removed from the passport in which it was issued prior to the alien's embarkation upon a continuous voyage to the United States; or

(3) For any of the reasons specified in paragraph (h) of this section if the visa